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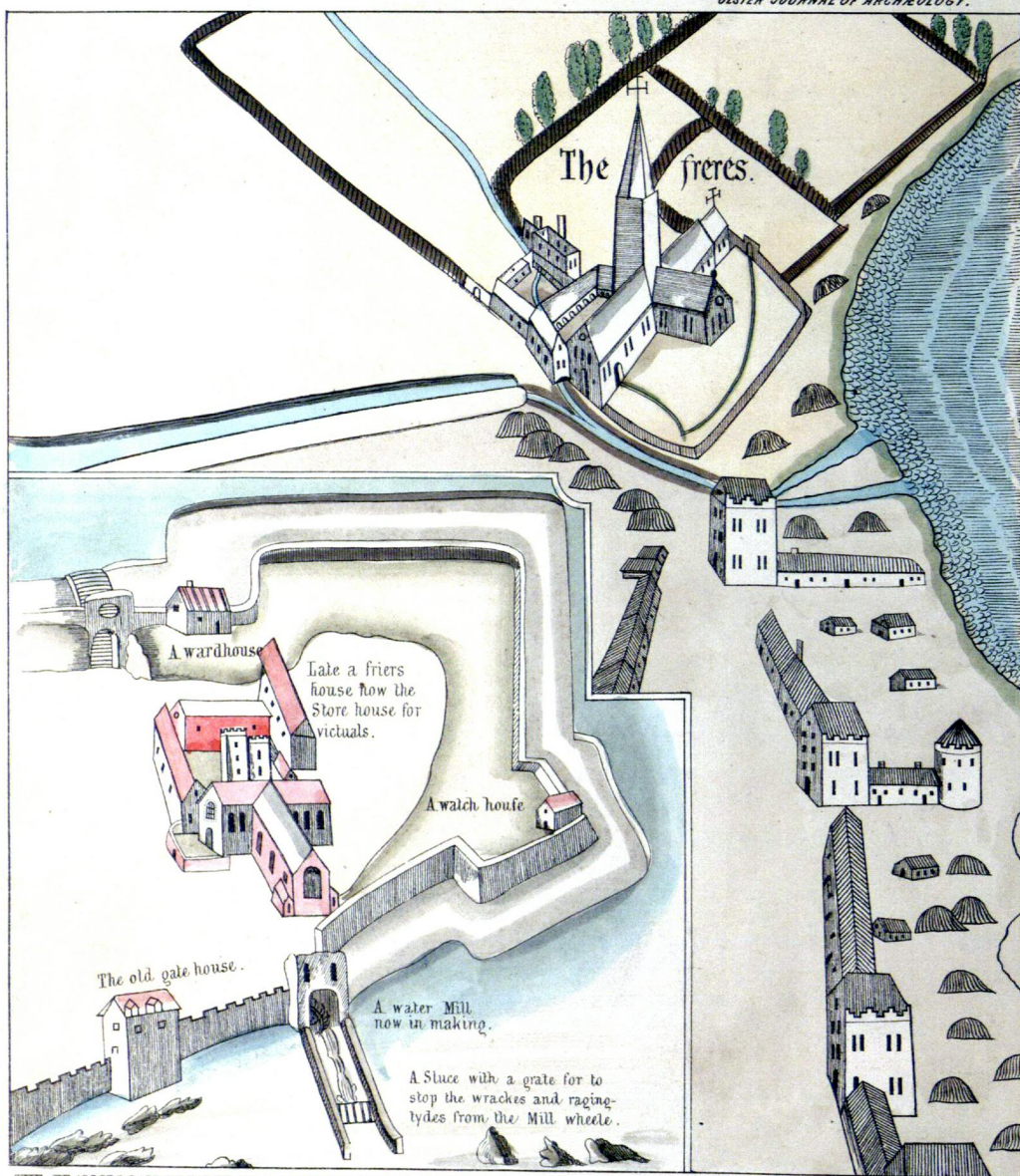
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THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY OF CARRICKFERGUS ABOUT THE YEAR 1540, AND THE "PALACE" ANNO 1610.

from two MSS. in the Cottonian Collection.

Roberts & Sons.

THE "PALLACE" OF CARRICKFERGUS.

MR. LEE, in his *Notes on Bawns*, in a late number of this Journal, has fallen into two errors which should not be permitted to pass uncorrected. In the first place, he says, "John Dallwaye, the first of that family who settled in this country, landed at Carrickfergus with Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, and Lord Rich, on the 20th of August, 1573," and adds, "it appears that he came from Devonshire, probably in the suite of Sir Arthur Chichester." Of what suite Sir Arthur had when he first came to Ireland, more than the ordinary following of a cavalry captain, I can have no very clear idea; but one thing, however, is certain, viz. that, as Mr. Dallwaye came to Ireland in 1573, and Sir Arthur did not come till 1599, just twenty-six years afterwards, the former gentleman could not, in any sense of the word, be said to have come in the suite of the latter. Again, Mr. Lee states that, "in 1603, John Dallwaye was Constable of Carrickfergus Castle," which he most certainly never was, either in that or any other year. The names of the constables of the castle, from 1556 to 1661, were Bethel, Piers, Egerton, Langforde, and Fortescue. But Mr. Dallwaye was for some years constable of the "Pallace" or storehouse of Carrickfergus, an inferior office, as regards position and emolument, to that of the constableness of the castle. In the State Paper Office, there is a *Book of such Enterteignments as have growen due to all the Officers in the Realme of Ireland, made to begin from the last of March, 1601*. And in it I find the following entries:—

"Charles Egerton, esquier, constable of the castell of Carrickfergus, for hym self at 3^s 4^d per diem, and 20 footmen warders, at 6^d the peece p. diem, for 365 daies, beginning primo Aprili, 1601, and ending ultimo Martii, 1602." "John Dallway, gent. constable of the Pallace or Storehouse of Carrickfergus, for hym self, at 2^s 8^d per diem, and 20 footmen as warders at 6^d per diem for lyke tyme." To these I may add the pay of the commander of the garrison and district, from the same book:—"Sir Arthur Chichester, knight and capten of horse, for hym self at 2^s per diem, a lieutenant at 15^d per diem, a coronet at 12^d per diem, and 25 horsemen at 18^d the peece per diem."

In the same year, Egerton having obtained a coloneley, wished to retire; and, as he held the constableness by patent, was consequently entitled to sell it to the highest bidder. Sir A. Chichester was anxious to purchase the office, but could not raise the money—three hundred pounds—which Egerton wanted for it. But Sir Arthur had a claim on the government, for pay and other monies due to his brother, Sir John Chichester, when the latter was killed in action with the MacDonnells; and Sir Arthur, in his letters to secretary Cecil, about this period, frequently solicits the payment of his claim, that he might be enabled to do himself and the State good service, by purchasing the

Constableness of Carrickfergus castle. In one characteristic letter, Sir Arthur says:—"Knowing the saftie of this the Queen's maretime town, my poor selfe and her people are under the garde and mercie of that castle, I would be glad (yf collonel Egerton forgoe hit) *that yt should be past to some gentleman that standes more upon his honor and reputacon than the profett of such a place,*"^a wherein all our munition and ordnance are stored and planted; and if I had bine furnished with monie, he should not have left it to this hazard for want of a chapman; would yt please you to procure me payment of the monie dewe from her Ma^{tie}, I would give him the greatest parte for his estate."^b

Five short years after writing the letter from which the above is extracted, when the abilities and ambition of Chichester had raised him to the lord deputyship of Ireland, he thus writes to the lords of the Privy Council:—"There hath been at Knoekfargus two wardes of long continuance, the one of the Castell, the other of the Pallace, both having a constable and twentie warders by patent. By the establishment of the first of April 1605, twentie of the warders were discharged, and the other twentie left to be disposed for the defence of both houses, as the deputie should thinke fitt. Upon which I ordered fifteen to the Castell, in respect it was the place of principal import, and five to the Pallace, which is a strong house lately rebuylded, and made fitt to contayne a magazen of vittuals for furnishing the whole forces in Ulster, when there is occasion." Chichester then continues to relate how both constables resented this interference with their vested interests, and proposes that, for the future, "the Castell do remaine at the auntyente allowance, and for the Pallace, the constable (in respect his ward was taken from him) to have the keeping of the house, with five men at eight pence a peece by the day, and five shillings sterling for hym selfe during his life."^c

The five men, however, were taken from the Pallace, and in lieu the constables's pay was raised to eight shillings per day, according to a "*Book of the Chardge of his Majestie's Armye and Garrisons in paye in Ireland for half a year, beginning primo Octo. 1609, and ending ultimo Martii next following,*" in which I find "John Dallway, constable of the Pallace of Carrigfergus. For the keeping of the same, and for his own enterteynment without any further chardge at 8s. per diem."^d Mr. Dallway's patent, by which he held the constableness, was signed on the 16th of September, 1597. The original sum allowed to him for each warder was eight pence per day; "and two pence per day being abated of the said eight pence for each warder, by some general establishment, the King being informed that the warders could worse live on their pay than the soldiers (especially in that time of scarcity) directed that he [John Dallway] should have the whole allowance of eightpence per day, by a Privy Signet, dated at Tottenham, Sept. 4, 1603."^e

On the 10th of December, 1603, one John Wood, gent., purchased, or was granted, under the Privy Seal, the reversion of the Constableness of the Pallace.—"But the King, afterwards, upon

^a The words in italics are underlined in the original.

^b Irish Papers. S.P.O.

^c Ibid.

^d Irish Papers, S.P.O.

^e Liber Munerum Hibernicorum.

other considerations, having discharged the said warders, whereby the said Wood was deprived the benefit intended him—his Majesty in recompense thereof, and for y^e ease of his charge, in keeping all the said house, directed a lease to be made of the said Pallace or house, with all the lands, &c., thereto belonging, to the said Wood, for thirty-one years after Dallway's decease, under Privy Seal, dated September 26, 1607.”ⁱ

Wood, however, did not long enjoy the benefit of his lease. By some means or other, Lord Deputy Chichester, who seems to have had as great a capacity for swallowing land and houses as that mythical monster, the Dragon of Wantley, managed to get hold of the Pallace, and having pulled it down, built upon its site his magnificent mansion, called Joymount, which was completed about 1618.

The Pallace was originally the “Franciscan Friary” of Carrickfergus—the principal and most important ecclesiastical establishment of the Grey Friars in Ireland. According to the *Monasticon*, it was founded by Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, in 1232.^g Luke Wadding, however, an Irishman, and Franciscan, in his *Annales Minorum*, anxious, probably to give the honour of its foundation to a countryman, inclines to the opinion that it was founded, in 1242, by an O'Neill, of the Clan-Aodh-Buidhe branch of that family, of whom, for several centuries, it was the usual place of interment.^h Hugh de Lacy, Richard de Burgh, and Gerald Fitzmaurice were also buried there, about the year 1243. Its history, like that of almost all the conventual houses of Ireland, is but a mere blank—“*Omnia porro ejus monumenta perierunt*,” as Wadding mournfully observes, in the annexed note. A deed of sacrilegious murder, and a change from one class of the Minorite order to another, is about the sum of all that is known respecting the principal seat of the order of St. Francis in Ireland.

ⁱ Lib. Mun. Hib.

^g The friars first arrived in England in the year 1226. Yet we need not be surprised to find them established in Ireland but six years later. For in thirty years only, after their arrival in England—in spite of the jealousy of the Papal See, and the open opposition of the monastic orders—the Franciscans had forty-nine convents, and 1232 friars: an instance of religious organization and propagandism unexampled in the annals of the world. [*Monumenta Franciscana*.] Friar John de Kethene, Warden of London, and afterwards Minister of Ireland, was probably the first Franciscan who came to this country. Thomas of Eccleston, in *De Adventu Minorum*, says that Kethene was not only a student himself, but a promoter of learning in others—that he bought a Bible at Paris, with an entire gloss, and took it to Ireland with him. “Ipse preterea in promovendo studio tam studiosus erat, ut bibliam unam glossam tam totaliter

Parisiis emi faceret, et in Hyberniam deportari.”

^h Anno Christi, 1242. Non prætereunda hoc anno quæ supersunt Conventus Confergus Provinciæ Hiberniæ memoria, cujus antiquitatem ex tempore mortis clarissimi viri Hugonis Laci comitis Ultoniæ utcumque venamur. Hic autem anno MCCXLIII. mortuus et sepultus est in eodem conventu, ut tradit Marisburiensis Chronicon Hiberniæ ad calcem Camdeni. Relatio duplex transmissa ex Hibernia, aliud etiam MS. constat proinde Conventum ante dictum annum fabricatum fuisse, quando antea incertum est. Omnia porro ejus monumenta perierunt. Alii ferunt Conventum exædificatum a Domino Magengusa, antiquæ nobilitatis et prosapiæ dynasta; alii (quod certius existimaverim) fundatorem statuunt Onellum Buidhe et familiam Nellaam, quorum ea possessio extitit, et in dicto Conventu sepeliebantur. [*Annales Minorum seu Trium Ordinum A. S. Francisco Institutorum*. Romæ. MDCCXXXII.]

In 1408, Hugh M^cAdam M^cGilmore, an Irish chieftain of the olden time, after plundering and destroying sixty religious edifices, and murdering in cold blood two of the clan Savage—though he had pocketed two thousand marks for their ransom—took sanctuary in the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, the chapel of the Franciscan convent. Unfortunately for Hugh, he had previously robbed this church, and taken away the iron bars which guarded its windows: so, through those undefended windows, the avenging survivors of the Savage race made their entrance, and despite the sanctity of the place, murdered the predacious M^cGilmore.

In 1497, Neil M^cCane O'Neill, having obtained license from the reigning Pontiff, reformed the convent to the order of Strict Observants.¹

The suppression of religious houses in Ireland commenced about 1537; but we may reasonably suppose that the Franciscans—from their utter poverty, offering no attractions to official cupidity, and from their well-deserved popularity among all classes as the good Samaritans of the religious orders—would be the last in the list of the suppressed orders. However that may have been, the Carrickfergus convent of that order was, to a certain extent, resuscitated in the following reign. Among the State Papers, there is a curious document, to which I should be puzzled to give a correct appellation. It is a submission and a petition, and describes itself as an—"Order Indented, taken betweene our most drede sovereigne Lord King Edward the Sixt, Defendre of the Faith, & immediatlie under God, supreme head of the Churche of Englande, and also of Irelande, on the one Partie, & Hough M^cNeloge his Ma^{tie}s subiecte on the other Partie."

Hugh Mac Neill Oge, like all the rest of his name and race, seems to have passed his life in alternately fighting savagely against the English power, and slavishly crawling in the dust at its feet. The document referred to recites that "Whereas the sayd Hough hathe humblie submitted hymselfe to the Kings Ma^{tie} his clemencie, earnestlie repentyng his wilfull demeynor & the late rebellion attempted by hym contrarie his allegeyance, & now faithfullie professing his truth & obedience, begging pardon for all offences, promissing to continue during life a faythful subiecte, he requests to have a leas of the King's Ma^{tie}, certen late monasteries with the lawndes therunto belonging, lying waste in his countrie, & the late frier house in Knockfergus graunted unto him, that therein he may erecte two secular Prestes for ministration of divine syrvyce, alleagyng that his awncitors were buried there, & that in all his countrie there is non place so mete a place for buriall as that is."

The above petition was granted, and it is probable that, in a very short period after its date, the convent of Carrickfergus was restored to its old proprietors the Observants. For, in the Har-

¹ Wadding gives the reformer another name. "Hujus dynasta Nellus Hugonis Felmidii induxit reformationem Observantiæ in eum Conventum, ejectis patribus conven-

tualibus. Obiit ibidem sepultus anno MDXII., III. idus Aprilis. [*Annales Minorum.*]

leian collection of MSS. there is a petition from the "Freres Observants" of Ireland to Queen Mary, dated November, 1557, in which the "Freres" pray "that it wold pleas her Ma^{tie} to graunt & confirme unto them & their religion" certain monasteries. And in the same collection there is a letter from the Queen to Lord Deputy, the Earl of Sussex, alluding to this petition, in which she states that she has "a mynde to doo the poore men that bountie & grace which we may convenientlie doo."

Consequently, the Franciscan convent of Carrickfergus was not finally suppressed until Elizabeth ascended the throne. Then, as Wadding relates, the brethren were expelled, and the English governor, after seizing all the sacred properties of the convent, cast five of the friars into prison, keeping them there till all hope of further plunder was extinguished. The names of those imprisoned friars were, Robert Mac Congaill, Eugene Macan Taire, Donough Molan, Charles O'Hanvill, and Patrick Mac Taighe.^k

The upper portion of the accompanying engraving, representing the Franciscan Friary and adjoining part of Carrickfergus, is taken from a very curious and interesting plan of that town, in the Cottonian collection. It is not dated; but, from internal evidence, and a comparison with a plan given by M'Skimmin,^l as of 1550, this one cannot be of a later date than 1540. And it is probably the only one extant representing an Irish Friary, when it was really occupied as such—when it was simply and truly "The Freres." In M'Skimmin's plan it is described as "The Pallace, late a Frier's House." The present illustration also confirms the ingenious conjecture of a writer in the 12th Number of this *Journal*, on the derivation of the word Pallace, as applied to this building.* We see by it that the convent and lands were enclosed by a *palisade*; and this is what we might have supposed, being strictly in accordance with the rule of the Minorites, as laid down by St. Francis himself. "When you intend to build," said the Saint to his followers, "first obtain the blessing of the bishop of the diocese, then make a deep ditch all round the land, and a good fence, instead of a wall, as an emblem of poverty."—"Deinde accepta benedictione Episcopi, vadant et curent

^k Expulsi sunt inde fratres sub Regina Elizabetha. Quinque autem per Anglum prefectum capti et incarcerationi sunt; excussa tandem sacra suppellectilis, dimissi, cum ampliores lucri spes omnes exciderit: vocabantur frater Robertus Mac Congaill, frater Eugenius Macan Taire, frater Donatus Molanus, frater Carolus O'Hanvill, frater Patritius Mac Taighe. [*Annales Minorum.*]

^l I have only seen the first edition of Mac Skimmin's history.

* The author of that interesting paper, however, probably misled by the *Itinerary of Father Edmund Mac Cana*, erroneously supposes that it was "Woodburn Abbey which occupied the site of the ancient *Pallis*." Strange to say,

Father Mac Cana, a Franciscan himself, does not mention the Friary of Carrickfergus. Mac Cana is perfectly correct in what he states respecting the remains of Woodburn. Will. Piers, Constable of the Castle, was the "governor of the town," who claimed the "*new works* beside the walls of the Castle," erected from the ruins of Woodburn. Among the Patent Rolls in Birmingham Tower, there is the following:—"A Messuage or Tenement newly built by William Pyerse on the West and East Part of the Castle of Caryckfergus, containeing by estimate forty feet more or less, to his heirs for ever, in free burgage by fealty at 2s. per ann. Jan. 31, 1570."

fieri magnam carbonariam in circuitu terræ, et circumponant bonam sepem pro muro, in signum sanctæ paupertatis.”^m We see, too, by this illustration, that the stream ran through one part of the premises where the friars had mills for grinding corn; for the Minoritesⁿ were workers as well as mendicants, and their founder held that he only was a good man at prayer, who was a good man at labour—“Tantum religiosus est bonus orator, quantum est bonus operator.”

I cannot part from the interesting plan of Carrickfergus, from which this illustration is taken, without a few other observations. The town is not represented as walled, but merely defended by a ditch on the land side. The pier is in progress of building; and thus we see that it was constructed by first placing a wooden frame-work, which was afterwards filled with stones. Besides the stone cross called “Great Patrick,” seen in the more ancient plans of Carrickfergus, standing in the main street near the castle, this plan shows us the base of a broken cross, in the church-yard of St. Nicholas, and also four noble yew trees—the Irish yew [*Taxus fastigiata*—growing in the same place.

It probably would not be long after the final expulsion of the friars, when the English government converted the convent into a store-house.^o The first notice, however, that I have met with of it, in its latter capacity, is a “note,” dated 1st April, 1574—the stirring period, when Essex was making his fruitless and ill-advised attempt to conquer Ulster. It runs as follows:—“Mr Edward Waterhouse wryteth for spedie warrant of the supply at Knockfergus of these things following. A flower to be made at Lyrpole for a loft to lay come in, in the Pallace at Knockfergus. The mylles there to be repayred, & a horse myll to be provided & sent thither spedelye. A warrant to Mr. Waterhouse to bestowe a C^u uppon this aforesayd & other necessarie reparations at Knockfergus, viz. the oven et cet. The Counsyll’s letters to take upp 2 myllers, 2 coopers, & 2 carters; the carters must serve to drawe to the Storehouse from the shypes all sotch provisions as be sent thither. A comyssion also to take upp 2 masons & 2 carpenters, for to fynish the reparations aforesayd.”^p

In the August of the following year, one Bland, who had been appointed to inquire into the method of provisioning the troops in Ireland, writing to Burghley, states that, at Carrickfergus—

^m *Speculum Vitæ*. Antwerpæ. 1620.

ⁿ A name adopted by the Franciscans to signify their poverty and humility, and also their being the youngest of the religious orders. Of “the pride that apes humility,” the following is a rich specimen:—“Etenim si dicat Abraham, ‘*Pulvis et cinis sum.*’ Franciscus dicet adhuc, ‘*Minor sum.*’ Si David, ‘*Mendicus sum et pauper.*’ immo, ‘*vermis sum et non homo.*’ Franciscus, ‘*Minor sum.*’ Si Solomon, ‘*Stultissimus sum virorum.*’ Franciscus, ‘*Minor sum.*’ Si D. Franciscus de Paulo cum suis dicat ‘*Nos Minimi suis,*

noster Franciscus dicet, ‘*Minores Minimis sumus.*’

^o It seems to have been not an unusual practice for the English Government to convert Irish ecclesiastical buildings into store-houses. Among the State Papers, there is a letter from one Crofton, a commissary to the Lord Deputy, dated July, 1572, in which he states that the Rebels and Scottes had burned Athlone and the body of the church, where he had his malt, biscuit, and beer, and all his brewing and baking vessels, which were consumed.

^p Irish Papers. S.P.O.

"The mylnes be there decayed, by reason one of them is clean without water, & the other the fundacion is sonke, so as they serve to no purpose, & the brew-houses & bake-houses unfurnished & in decaye, & the houses of stoare be in good state & dailly enlarded." ⁹

In March, 1853, the Lords Justices, in a letter to secretary Sir Francis Walsingham, write:—"The Pallace is a thing very necessarie to be safelie kept, havynge in yt the fayrest and largest roomes for stowedge and brewing as are in this lande, besides sundrie good lodgings. And considering the towne is not half walled abowte, and withal so poore is not able to defend yt selfe, the same myght be easilie burnte, by any that would attempt yt, and soe we feare yt would be if the warde should be taken away." ¹⁰

In November, 1586, a Captain Dawtrie who had been Seneschal of the "Pallace" set down the following "*Reasons why the warde of the Queen's Storehouse at Carrickfergus, commonly named the Pallas, shoulde be contynued after the buylding or fynishing of the wales of the said towne.*"—"First concerning the warde of the storehouse comonly named the Pallas, about xvi. yeres past the charge of the said howse was comitted unto one Cornewall; but soldiers he had none other than xvi. artificers, as bakers, brewers, and labourers. At that tyme the house was attempted by Brian MacPhelim, who was lyke to have entered yt, by means of the cowardnes of the said artificers before rehersed. But the Maior of the towne, seeing the warde come awaie from their charge, stepped into the howse, with all the force he could make, leaving the towne in danger, for the savegard of the Queen's howse and store, which he reskewed and putt the enemie from the house; by which meanes thei entred the towne, and burnte a great parte thereof with the church. Whereupon, the L. Deputie then being, put in a warde of xx solders, which hath been contynued ever sythen unto this daie.—This president doth make the townesmen to remember the guarding of their owne howsses, in any such time of exigent, that fall out hercafter.—Now that the enemye dothe envie that howsse and myll more than any in the North of Ireland, by reason that yt is a place of strong stowege for corne and victuall, to releve her Ma^{ties} forces in the harte of Ulster; whereby yt enableth a garrison to be planted there, or any where within 20 or 30 myles more north warde, or into the countrey, from whence they are * * * * with bread and beere, without the which the garrisons cannot be maynteyned in those partes; and being so neere a frontier unto the landing of the Scottes as yt is generallie, all the bad people of Ulster, and the Scottyshe Islands, seeke the overturn of that howsse, more than the towne or castile, or any other in Ulster. It hath been often seene that many secret practizes and ambushes have been layd to wynne that, sithen the fore said rebellion of Sr Brian Mac Phelim, both in the time of Thomas Seckford, seneschall, as also in the time of the nowe seneschall. In the night, when they have sent their spies, in captain Dawtrie's tyme, they have bene often shot at by the watch of the Pallas; in the daie, (the enemy I mean) have laid diverse ambushes, for to have the killing of him the said cap-

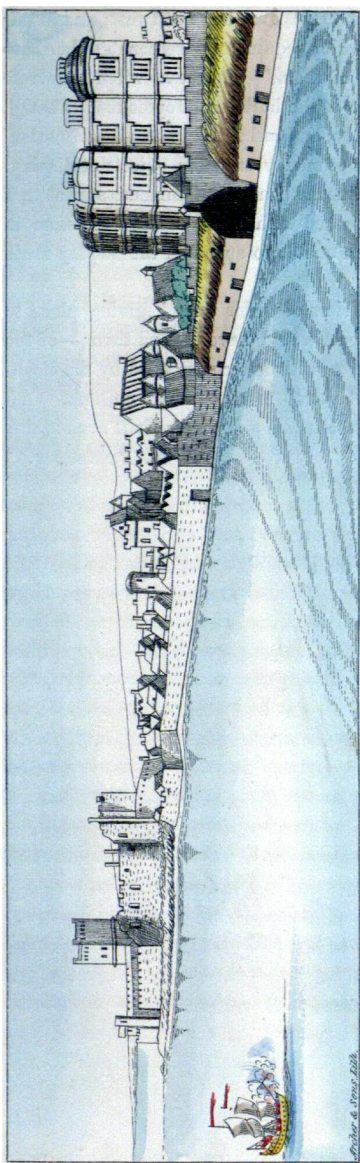
⁹ Irish Papers, S.P.O.

¹⁰ Ibid.

tain, who was shott at by vii. shott at once, that were layd for him, beaing upon the walls of the said Pallace—but God was his defence—whilst in his tyme the howsse was attempted by violent force by the Scotte. At the last attempt, the said captain Dawtrei was discharged by lettres, out of England, 10 daies before the attempt, and having but a verie fewe men lefte, which he reserved for his owne garde, and to convey his stuff into Dublin; meaning, upon the discharge of his warde, to have given over the office of seneschal shipp, remayning certen daies after for the conveyance of his stuf, as aforesaid, the Scottes attempted the Pallas agayne with resolute purpose to have wonne yt, but the said captain departed before the Scottes comyng, defended the howsse, and at that conflict, slewe 4 of the best Scottes, besides many that were hurte, by which meanes the Scottes were discomfited and put back without atcheiving their purpose; whereupon the said captain stayed and advertised the L^d. Justices of the thyng that happened, whereupon the said L^{ds}. continued the said warde unto the said captain Dawtrie unto this daie. The said Pallas, or Abbey, standeth upon one corner of the towne wall, and without the town; yt must be strongly warded otherwise yt wil be broken, for yf the towne be never walled, the enemye will never attempte yt upon the inward parte of the towne, by reason of the stone howsses or castles (as they call them) that stande within the towne, but on the outside from the browe, which is the plan that they alwaeis did attempte yt, which wil be no more defencible or strong when the towne is buylt than yt is now; the towne is unbuilt, for the buylding of the towne addeth nothing unto the strength of the Pallas, and castle; the contrey people of those partes, under the government of the seneschall, are so aptlie furnished of men and means to take armes at all tymes, when their wicked disposition so serveth, as justlie it maye be saide that no officer in Ireland is more often and more daungerouslye called to the field, than he is, who having none other private charge of men in her Ma^{ties} paye as yet than the said warde, cannot in good consideration be countenanced with any losse. Therefore the said seneschall, nowe two yeres synce, beeing one amongst others that entred the Glynnys upon the Scottes, was there sore hurte, and bledd so much that he was unhable of himself to goe from the place; and in case he had not by his own warders (whereof he taketh comonly some xv. or xvi. wyth hym to the field) ben succored and carried awaie, he sawe not but that there he byne left to the enemye; for the othor troopes, as carles of him and looking after their own chieffes, to say the best, they not seeing or knowing his hurte proceded, so speedilie onwarde, that he myght well have bene lost, besides had yt not byn for hys own warders aforesaid, of whome also there hapened but viii. to be at his reserve, whereof fyve weare likewise hurte, in this reskewing of the said seneschall.”^a

The lower portion of the present engraving, representing the Pallace, and part of the town, is taken from a plan of Carrickfergus, also in the Cottonian collection, inscribed, “*John Dunstall, pinxit, 1610.*” The town was then, and indeed had long before been, walled; and the course of

^aIrish Papers, S.P.O.



the mill-stream diverted to the exterior of the walls. Another, though ruder, representation of the Pallace will be at once recognised in the plan of Carrickfergus, for which the readers of this Journal are indebted to the liberality of Evelyn Philip Shirley, Esq. It is the large building in the upper right-hand corner of the plan. [See *Journal*, vol. iii. p. 276.]

Joymount, as I have already stated, was built on the site of the Pallace; and though little more than eighty years have passed since it, in its turn, was pulled down, and the County Jail and Court-house erected on its site, yet all recollection of it seems to be buried in oblivion. When I was a boy, the old people of Carrickfergus used to relate a mythical tradition about Joymount, to the effect, that this celebrated edifice was a kind of architectural almanack, having a window for every day, a door for every week, and a chimney for every month in the year. Even the indefatigable inquirer, Samuel McSkimin, seems to have known little, if anything, about it. It gave me great pleasure, therefore, to find the accompanying representation of Joymount in a view of Carrickfergus taken from the sea, evidently the handiwork of Captain Phillips, and drawn about 1685. It is the large building on the extreme right. And in my own opinion, a very peculiar interest is attached to this illustration. For, distrusting poetry and fable, and having as little faith in "Tara's hall" as in the architectural accomplishments of "Goban Saor," I consider that Joymount was the first house—the first dwelling-house, worthy of the name, not an ecclesiastical establishment, or a castle—ever built in Ireland. The illustration, too, amply testifies to the correctness of Sir William Brereton's oft-quoted description of Joymount in 1635. It is "a very statelie house, or rather like a prince's pallace," he tells us. We can well believe that in the interior there was "a verry faire hall and a stately staire-case, and faire dineing roome carrying the proportion of the hall." Welikewise see the dove-houses he mentions, and can agree with him, that altogether "it is a most stately building." "But," continues the quaint old

traveller, "the windowes and roomes and whole frame of the house is over-large and vast; and in this house may you observe the inconvenience of great buildings, which require an unreasonable chardg to keep them in repaire, soe they are a burthen to the owners of them." Brereton, when he wrote this, must have forgotten the great wealth and high position of the builder of Joymount. Though ever greedy and grasping, Chichester was never mean or miserly; and, either from natural inclination, or to further his political aims, he freely lavished large sums of money on mere objects of display. During the last Parliament he held in Dublin, he spent ten thousand pounds (an immense sum at that time) on show and liveries; and the Irish people long after looked with scorn on his successors in the Lord Deputyship, whose private fortunes rendered them unable to approach the display made by Lord Deputy Chichester.

One might moralize, or even be sentimental, over the "Friars of Order Gray," giving place to the butchers, bakers, and brewers—the poke-puddings, as Scott would have termed them,—of the English commissariat; and the vice-regal state and splendour of Chichester succeeded by the clashing chains and dismal cries of condemned felons; but "*Fuerunt*" must be their epitaph. All powerful time, which hath antiquated their antiquities, condescends to prescribe a limit even to this poor pen, and the mandate must be obeyed.

W. PINKERTON.

